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DOLGELLAU URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L

H E A L T H   R E P O R T

for the year

1959.



DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

EVAN RICHARDS. M.R.C. S., I.R.C.P., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR:

RONALD PUGH JONES, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,

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TO: The Chairman and Members of the  
DOLGELLAU URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Health Report for the year ending 31st December 1959.

The population as estimated by the Registrar General remained at the same level as obtained in the previous year.

There was a decrease of eight in the number of live births of which none were illegitimate. There was one still birth.

The number of deaths was six.more than in 1'58 and this was one more than the number of births.

Infant Mortality figures showed an increase of one more than the previous year.

Cancer deaths increased by one as compared with 1958 and there were no tuberculosis deaths.

New notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were one fewer and there were no notications of Non-Pulmonary disease. There were no deaths from Tuberculosis during 1959 (the same as in 1958).

No epidemic of notifiable infectious disease occurred. Only one case of Erysipelas was notified.

No cases of food poisoning were notified, and in this connection a successful "Clean Food Week" was held. There appeared to be a greater awareness of the importance of Food Hygiene, particularly in regard to Fly pollution. Anti-Fly propaganda was carried out during the year.

The "~~Anti~~-Litter" Week showed a better response than in the previous year but the improvement was not maintained for very long.

I am,  
Your obedient Servant,

EVAN RICHARDS.

District Medical Officer of Health.



DOLGELIAU URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of Urban District	1,127 acres.
Rateable Value (as on 31st March 1960).	£27,190.
Population (Registrar General figure).	2,470.
Sum represented by Penny Rate (31.3..60).	£103. 2. 8d.
Number of inhabited houses (according to rate book) end of the year.	1015.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Comparability factors.	Births.	1.02.
	Deaths.	1.03.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
TOTAL.	14	19
Legitimate.	14	19
Illegitimate.	-	-

<u>LIVE BIRTH RATE PER 1000 population.</u>	13.36.
1958 figure.	16.79.

<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
TOTAL.	Nil.	1.

<u>STILL BIRTHS RATE PER 1000 population.</u>	0.41.
Total Births - (live and still)	34.
Live.....	33.
Still.....	1.

<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Total.	2.	1.
Legitimate.	2.	1.
Illegitimate.	-	-

<u>INFANT MORTALITY.</u> (Rate per 1,000 Live Births).	90.90.
1958 figure.	47.88.

DEATHS OF LEGITIMATE INFANTS.

Mortality (per 1000 legitimate live births).	90.90.
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DEATHS OF ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS.

Mortality (per 1000 illegitimate live births).	Nil.
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<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS under 4 weeks.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Total.	2	Nil.
Legitimate.	2	Nil.
Illegitimate.	Nil.	Nil.



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		Page. . . 3.
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS under 1 week.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Total.	2	Nil.
Legitimate.	2.	Nil.
Illegitimate.	Nil.	Nil.

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS (per 1000 population Nil.

MATERNAL DEATHS (including abortion). Nil.

MATERNAL MORTALITY (rate per 1000 live and still births) NIL.

Death connected with childbirth and pregnancy - NIL.  
1958-Figure. NIL.

DEATHS. Total - 34 Male. 20 Female.

Rate per 1000 population. - 1.62.  
1958 figures. - 1.21.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS. Total - Nil.  
Rate per 1000 population - Nil.  
1958 figures. - NIL.

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(1) Public Health Officers of the Authority.

One Medical Officer of Health.  
One Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

(2) Laboratory Facilities.

Water and Milk Samples - Public Health Laboratory, Aberystwyth.  
Chemical analysis of water - The Public Analyst, Chester.

(3) Ambulance Facilities.

County Council Ambulance depot situate in Dolgellau.  
Four Ambulances.

(4) Infant Welfare Clinics.

Held twice monthly at Ebeneser (Wesleyan) Chapel Vestry.

(5) Ante Natal Clinics.

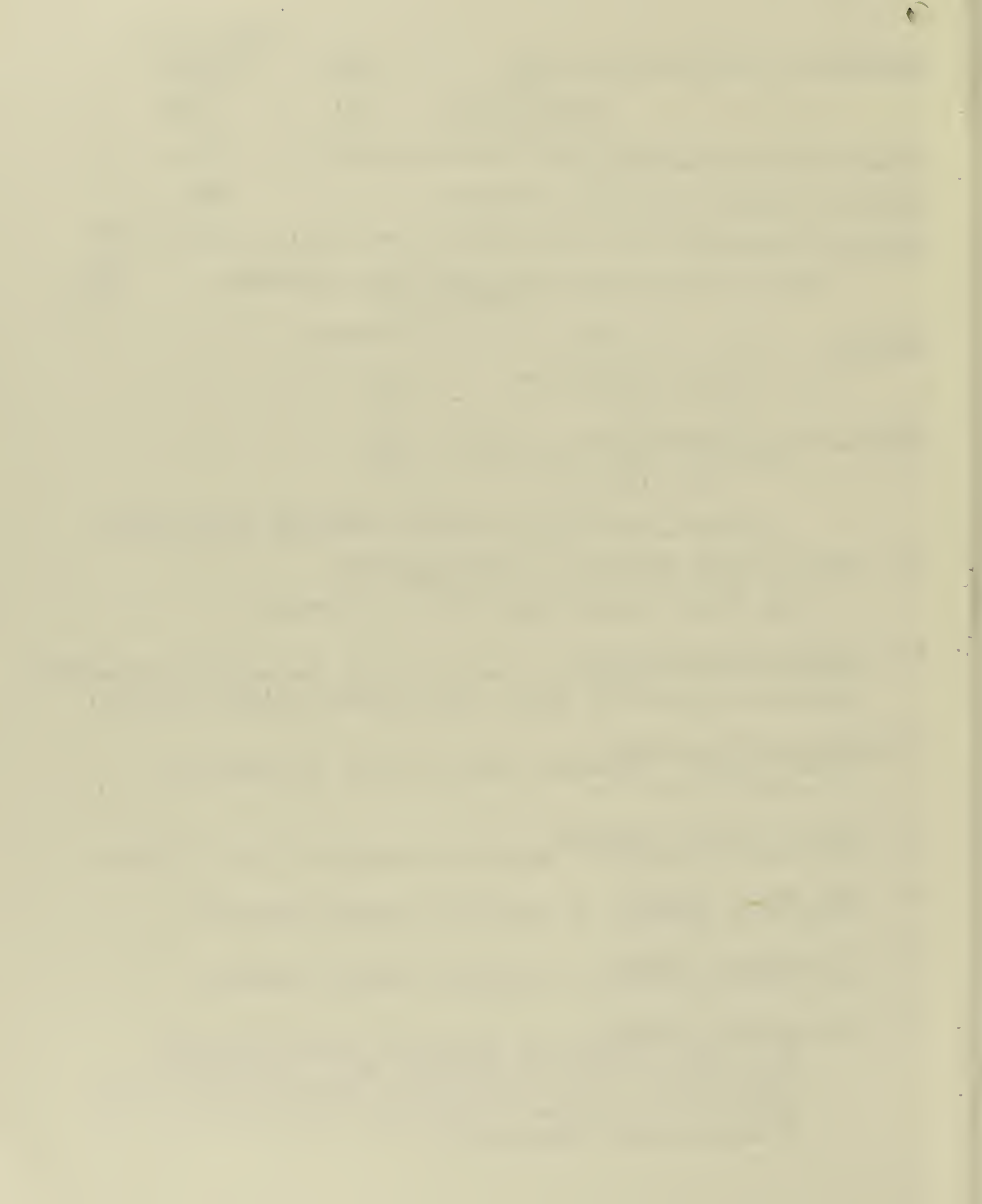
Held twice monthly at Dolgellau Cottage Hospital.

(6) Orthopaedic Clinics.

Held twice monthly at Dolgellau Cottage Hospital.

(7) Tuberculosis Clinic.

Held twice monthly at Dolgellau Cottage Hospital.  
Mass Radiography Unit at Drill Hall on dates as  
advertised. B.C.G. Vaccination offered to all school  
children of 13 years of age group and carried out by  
County Medical Department.





(8) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Carried out by Medical Department, Merioneth County Council. Babies and young children immunised at Infants' School. Poliomyelitis immunisation carried out by County Medical Department. Infants and school children in Schools and Clinic. Older age groups by arrangement or by own Family Practitioner.

(9) HOSPITALS. One fully equipped Cottage Hospital.(10) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Total Number of infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year = 1.

Erysipelas.	1.
Scarlet Fever.	Nil.
Bacillary Dysentery.	Nil.
Whooping Cough.	Nil.
Measles.	Nil.
Infantile Paralysis.	Nil.

TUBERCULOSIS. NEW CASES.

Pulmonary.	Total = 2 - Males Nil. Females -2.
Non-Pulmonary.	Total = Nil - Males -Nil - Females -Nil.

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS. Total - Nil.

Pulmonary.	Total- Nil. Males - Nil Females - Nil.
Non-Pulmonary.	Total - Nil. Males - Nil Females - Nil.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during 1959 in age groups.

Age periods.	<u>New Cases</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>		<u>DEATHS.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	
	<u>Respiratory.</u>				<u>Respiratory.</u>			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0.								
1.								
2.								
3.								
5.								
10.								
15.								
20.								
25.		1.						
35.		1.						
45.								
55.								
65.								
75.								
TOTALS.		2.						



CAUSES OF DEATHS, 1959.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Tuberculosis. Pulmonary.	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-
Cancer Stomach.	1.	-
" Lungs.	-	-
" Breast.	-	1.
" Other sites.	1.	1.
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	2.	7.
Coronary diseases, angina.	-	1.
Hypertension with heart disease.	-	1.
Other heart disease.	3.	4.
Other circulatory disease.	1.	2.
Influenza.	-	-
Pneumonia.	1.	3.
Bronchitis.	2.	1.
Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum.	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea.	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis.	1.	1.
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	-	2.
Motor Vehicle accident.	-	-
All other accidents.	1.	-
Suicide	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1.	-
	<hr/>	
TOTAL.	14.	20.
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NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948.

No action was taken under Section 47 of this Statute but cases liable to become affected by its provisions were visited and advised.

FOOD HYGIENE.

A successful "Clean Shops Week" was held and certificates of Merit were granted. There was a noticeably increased awareness of the importance of Food Hygiene since the previous year.

No. of prosecutions - Nil.



GENERAL.

HOUSING.

Four new Council houses were commenced to be erected during 1959 and were nearing completion at the end of the year.

Due to the high interest on loans, the Council were not in a position to proceed with the erection of new houses during the year with the exception of the four mentioned above.

There is an acute shortage of housing accommodation, both for general needs and slum clearance, and the Council already own sites which would accommodate over sixty houses. It is regrettable therefore that the cost of building and the rates of interest could not be such that the Council could see their way clear to proceed in an all out effort to ease the housing position.

The Council have also been alive to the possibility of improving properties by semi-reconstruction and demolition of old buildings and dwellings. Two areas have been selected which contain derelict and substandard houses, and the scheme is intended to provide housing accommodation by conversion and improvement. Due to lengthy negotiations necessary to define ownerships of the properties and land, progress has been slow during the year.

PRIVATE BUILDING. Two houses were completed during the year.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Five applications for improvement grants were approved by the Council during the year, and all Schemes were satisfactorily completed.

The total amount of grant paid was £1083.

The total number of improvement schemes completed since the commencement of the Act now amounts to 18.

ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

No Clearance Areas were declared during the year.

UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED.

Under Sections 16(4), 17, and 35(1) Housing Act 1957.....1.

UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED.

After Informal action by local authority.	.....	14.
After Notice under (a) Public Health Act.	.....	Nil.
After Notice under (b) Sections 9 & 16 Housing Act..		Nil.





## HOUSING MANAGEMENT.

Direct labour is available for the remedying of minor defects to Council Houses. Major repairs are let out on contract and during the year six houses were roughcasted, making a total of 20 houses which have been so treated externally to date.

A contract for the external painting of 30 houses was also let during the year.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The "kerb side" collection scheme is practised and the majority of dwellings enjoy a twice-a-weekly collection. There is no salvage scheme in operation and waste paper has to be collected and disposed of by burning on the tip face.

There is still adequate tipping space at Coedffirddarw tip. Town traders are permitted to use the tip face free of charge for disposal of trade refuse, during the two days when the tip is used for the disposal of town refuse.

## STREET CLEANSING.

Cleansing of Trunk Roads and Classified Roads is carried out by the County Highways Authority, whilst the unclassified roads are attended to by this Authority. Every opportunity is taken to remind public of the necessity to keep the town "litter free" and litter bins have been provided in various parts of the town. The Council have also adopted a byelaw for the prevention of fouling of footways by dogs.

## PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Conveniences are provided for both sexes at the Cae Marian Park and also at the Free Library. The Council have under consideration the provision of additional conveniences in the town but difficulty had been experienced in finding a suitable site.

A part time daily Female attendant is employed to clean the "Ladies" conveniences, whilst the Park Attendant is responsible for the "Gents" Conveniences.



SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There has been no change in the system during the year and the sewer discharges into the sea outfall.

A major improvement was carried out to the Arran Road sewer by providing a storm overflow to take the surplus storm water entering the sewer during periods of abnormally heavy rainfall. This improvement appears to have remedied the occasional surcharging of the sewer and consequent flooding of property.

The sewers were regularly inspected and flushed constantly. Test baiting for rodent infestation was carried out during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION AND FOOD HYGIENE.

There is one private slaughterhouse which is used by the four butchers in business within the Urban area. The slaughterhouse was visited regularly and the meat slaughtered for human consumption was inspected. It was gratifying to note the high quality of the meat and particularly that no cases of tuberculosis was evident. This reflects on the intensive and thorough work carried out by the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, in the campaign to eradicate bovine tuberculosis in the County.

No cases of cysteocercus bovis was found.

The total number of animals slaughtered during the year is as follows :-

<u>Bullocks.</u>	<u>Heifers.</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total.</u>
15.	5.	4172.	165.	= 4357.

INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IN ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED.  
TUBERCULOSIS.

There was no incidence of tuberculosis.



DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

	<u>Total Killed.</u>	<u>Carcases condemned.</u>	<u>Part carcasses or organ condemned.</u>	<u>Percentage of animals infected.</u>
Cattle.	20.	1.	2.	15.
Sheep.	4172.	-	54.	1.2.
Pigs.	165.	-	3.	1.8.

<u>Part Carcase or organs condemned.</u>	<u>Disease or Condition.</u>	<u>Weight.</u>
Steer Carcase and offal.	Emaciations Dropsy.	76 lbs.
3 Pigs Livers.	Parasitic.	7 lbs.
43 Sheep Livers.	Fasioliasis.	75 lbs.
11 Sheep Livers.	Parasitic.	20. lbs.
2 Ox Livers.	Fasioliasis.	21. lbs.
Total weight.		<u>199 lbs.</u>

FOOD INSPECTION IN SHOPS.

The following Food was surrendered and condemned during the year:-

Part of Ox Hindquarter.	110 lbs.
Herrings.	42 lbs.
Tinned Meat.	102 lbs 10 ozs.
Other Tinned Food.	2 cts. 1 qr. 1 lb. 9ozs.
Potatoes.	8 cwts.

FOOD HYGIENE.

Food premises are inspected periodically and the attention of food handlers is drawn to the necessity of compliance with the Regulations. " A Clean Food week held during July did much to stimulate interest and on the whole the standard of food premises showed a marked improvement. Routine visits together with persuasive action has assisted in encouraging occupiers of food establishments to improve their premises and methods of food handling.





WATER SUPPLY.

The supply during the year has been adequate both in quantity and quality. The supply was drawn from Llyn Cynwch and there was no need for any restrictions throughout the year, despite the long drought. Regular samples of the supply were submitted for bacteriological examination and on every occasion the water supplied to the consumers was reported to be excellent.

A small number of properties on the higher regions of the town have not enjoyed a constant supply of water during the day-time due to the variation of pressure caused by the high draw off the mains in the lower parts of the town during the day. Due to the intermittent supply, these properties had to depend on the storage facilities provided.

A concentrated effort has been made during the year to locate and repair leakages. Night surveys and recordings of flows have been undertaken and leakages were repaired when detected. The supply to several groups of properties was improved by the renewal of corroded galvanised branch mains and communication pipes. Work on the extension of a four inch water main was completed during the year to improve the supply in the Hospital Drive area, and also to provide a fire hydrant near the Hospital and nearby houses.

During the year the Council appointed Consulting Engineers to prepare a new Scheme for supplying water to the town of Dolgellau. Following consultations with the Dolgellau R.D.C. the consultants were asked to prepare a joint scheme for supplying the U.D.C. and a large area of the R.D.C. along both sides of the Mawddach estuary. It is hoped in this way to provide for full treatment of the supply and to improve the storage and distribution system.

The Council continue to supply water in bulk to Penmaenpool and also to other properties situate in the Dolgellau Rural District.

MILK SUPPLY.

Dealers Licences to sell T.T.Milk....	1.
Persons Licensed to carry on trade of Milk Retailers.....	7.

The Urban District is included in an Order made under the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Area) (No.2) Order 1957, which provides that all milk sold by retail within the district must be "specially designated".



ICE CREAM PREMISES.

Manufacturing premises.	Nil.
Number of Retailers.	9.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council continue to carry out their obligations under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 and the Rodent Operator is employed part time, being also responsible for the Dolgellau R.D.C. and Barmouth U.D.C.

Inspections and treatments (9 months ending 31. 12. 1959).

No. of properties inspected:	
Local Authority.	6.
Dwelling houses (including Council houses).	567.
All other (including business premises)	190.
Agricultural.	3.
No of Premises found infested.	137.
Treated by Local Authority.	137.
Notices served under Section 4.	Nil.
No of "block control schemes" carried out.	Nil.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

No of premises on register.	18.
No inspected re cleanliness.	2.
No inspected re sanitary accommodation.	9.
Defects found.	-.
Remedied.	-.
No inspected in respect of means of escape in case of fire.	2.

INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936. Sanitary Inspections of the Area.

Inspection re nuisances.	63.	Disinfection.	1.
Drainage.	42.	Water Supply.	276.
Sewerage.	36.	Private water supply.	5.
Public Conveniences.	170.	Street cleansing.	80.
Refuse Collection.	157.	Piggeries.	2.
Refuse Tip.	41.	Verminous diseases.	2.
Rivers and streams.	14.	Infestations.	6.
New buildings. etc.	71.	Re Building Byelaws.	41.
		Dangerous structures.	2.



INSPECTIONS (continued).

HOUSING:

Housing Act 1957 - Unfit Houses.	23.
Re Improvement Grants.	16.
Public Health Act 1936. re Defects.	47.
Rent Act 1957.	6.
re Council House Repairs.	233.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT:

Fried Fish Shops.	3.
Bakehouses.	9.
Greengrocers.	10.
Grocers.	51.
Butchers.	76.
Cafes.	19.
Ice Cream Retailers.	10.
Food Stalls.	8.
Dairy.	5.
Visits to Slaughterhouse.	171.

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